

S-214
Isaac Harris House or
Brittingham Farm
Near Wellington
Private

c. 1780-1798,
with c. 1880-1890
addition

The Brittingham Farm, also known as the Dryden Farm, on Perryhawkin Road, is a significant mixture of 18th and 19th-century Somerset County architectural forms. The rear service wing is a late 18th-century $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story hall/parlor dwelling that is listed on the 1798 Federal assessment as having brick ends. Evidently the brick gables were in bad repair by the late 19th-century and both were removed when a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story cross-gabled ~~farmhouse~~ ^{farmhouse} was attached to the southwest gable end. In converting the old hall/parlor house to a service wing, an internal brick stove stack was inserted against the hall partition. The old parlor was converted into a kitchen, and the hall was apparently used as a dining room. Significant surviving 18th-century architectural features include ~~tilted~~ ^{tilted} false-plates, interior vertical board sheathing on both first and second floors and remnants of early beaded weatherboards. The late 19th-century farmhouse has experienced only a few alterations and is representative of hundreds of its type built throughout the county.

The rear $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story hall/parlor house was built evidently by Isaac Harris during the fourth quarter of the 18th-century. The 1798 Federal assessment lists Isaac Harris of John in Dividing Creek hundred as owning,

A tract of land called Tulls Addition with other adjacent lands lying in Somerset County about 7 miles from Princess Anne Town adjoining Steven Harris' land with 1 barn 20 by 30 and 1 corn house 16 by 20 and 1 dwelling where Betty Long lives 16 by 18 one storey of wood \$550.00

Also standing on Isaac Harris' land was his dwelling, which was described as

1 dwelling 20 by 32 one storey high with 4 windows 4 by
2 and 2 with ends brick and sides and roof wood and 1 kitchen
32 by 16 and 1 meat house 10 by 10 and 1 Milk House 8 by 10
All wood \$450.00

Isaac Harris' slave assessment included a total of eight, with ^{four} slaves between the ages of twelve and fifty.

Isaac Harris' will was proved on 21 March 1816, and he left to his wife Sally, and their children interests in his estate. Sally lived another eleven years, and at her death her married daughters and one son sold, by trustee, her land to Samuel S. Costen on 5 September 1837 (GH 9/208). In 1845, Samuel and his wife, Mary, sold the 212 acres to William M.N.B. Costen, who at that time was beginning to amass a tremendous agricultural complex that totaled close to 4000 acres by the fourth quarter of the 19th century. William M.N.B. Costen died intestate, and two heirs, Mary A. Costen Clarke and Edward A. Clarke sold the farm to Edward J. Brittingham in March of 1886 (HFL 4/53). It was probably at this time that the major front addition was attached. The Brittinghams retained ownership of the property until 1909, when E. Florence Brittingham sold the 128-acre farm to Alton E. Dryden.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-214

Magi No. 2002145235

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Isaac Harris House

and/or common Brittingham Farm

2. Location

street & number NE side of Perryhawkin Road not for publication

city, town Wellington x vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> x occupied	<u> </u> agriculture
<u> </u> x building(s)	<u> </u> x private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial
	<u> </u> x not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military
			<u> </u> museum
			<u> </u> park
			<u> </u> x private residence
			<u> </u> religious
			<u> </u> scientific
			<u> </u> transportation
			<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Eugene I. Glazer

street & number 223 W. Read Street telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 300

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 371

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-214

Condition		Check one	Check one	
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	<u>X</u> original site	
<u>X</u> good	___ ruins	<u>X</u> altered	___ moved	date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Brittingham Farm is a 128-acre farm situated east of Perryhawkin Road near Wellington, Somerset County, Maryland. The 2½-story farmhouse presently faces southwest, but the rear wing is an 18th-century hall/parlor house which faces southeast. Accompanying the house is a log smokehouse and several frame outbuildings.

The c. 1880-1890 2½-story three-bay center hall front section rests on a brick pier foundation and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt tile roof. A cross-gable is centered on the front roof slope. Narrow weatherboards uniformly sheath the exterior, and a shed roof porch extends across the front of the house. Chamfered porch posts and sawn eave brackets support the roof. The fenestration is symmetrical with 2/2 sash windows lighting the first and second floors. A Gothic arch window lights the cross-gable, and a partially glazed paneled door opens into the center hall. Twin corbelled brick chimneys flank the hallway.

The north and south gable ends are alike with a single 2/2 sash window on each floor and a Gothic sash in the gable.

Covering a large portion of the northeast side is the late 18th-century 1½-story hall/parlor house which was converted to a two-room service wing in the last decades of the 19th century. This portion of the house is supported by a continuous brick foundation and is covered by a medium sloped asphalt shingle roof. Two 6/6 sash dormer windows interrupt the southeast roof slope. The walls are sheathed with a combination of wide beaded weatherboards and narrow replacement weatherboards. A narrow brick chimney rises from the center of the house.

The southeast elevation is three bays across with a center entrance flanked by 6 sash windows. The door is a late 19th century replacement but the window sash survive intact with cyma curve surrounds. A hip roofed entrance stoop covers the front door. The boxed cornice stretches across at the base of the roof with crown and bed moldings.

The northeast gable end is sheathed with narrow weatherboards. The remnants of the brick chimney arch is quite visible in the brick rubble foundation. A gable end entrance with gable-front stoop occupies the northern half of the end wall, while a 2/2 sash window pierces the upper story.

The northwest side retains a large portion of its wide beaded weatherboards in addition to the crown and bed moldings of the boxed cornice. The center door has been replaced, but is topped by a five-light transom and framed by a cyma curve surround. Located to either side of the door are early 9/9 sash windows. The foundation walls have been partially rebuilt with concrete blocks. Found within the crawl space was the early mortise and tenon frame wooden grill with vertical diamond-cross sectioned bars.

The interior of the front section is finished with standard late 19th-century woodwork and plaster and lath walls. The center stair has a heavy, turned newel post and turned balusters which support an oval cross-sectioned handrail. Four-panel doors open into adjacent rooms. Both rooms have plain late 19th-century mantels.

The second floor is treated in a similar manner with even less attention to detail.

The rear service wing is divided as it was in the 18th century by a centrally located vertical board wall. An enclosed winder stair has a four-panel door as well as its early molded surround. In fact most door and window openings retain their original surrounds. A simple post and lintel mantel has been applied to the middle partition for a focal point surrounding the stove.

The old parlor was converted to a late 19th-century kitchen, but little of the 18th-century finish work was altered. The board wall remains exposed, and a simple molded chair rail stretches around the front and rear wall surfaces. The end wall is sheathed with narrow beaded board which suggests a late 19th-century dismantling of the brick end walls.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-214

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Brittingham Farm, also known as the Dryden Farm, on Perryhawkin Road is a significant mixture of 18th and 19th-century Somerset County architectural forms. The rear service wing is a late 18th-century 1½-story hall/parlor frame house which is listed in the 1798 Federal Assessment as having brick ends. Evidently the brick gables were in bad repair by the late 19th century and both were removed when a 2½-story cross-gabled farmhouse was attached to the southwest gable end. In converting the old hall/parlor house to a service wing, an internal brick stove stack was inserted against the hall partition. The old parlor was converted into a kitchen, and the hall was apparently used as a dining room. Significant surviving 18th-century architectural features include tiled floor-plates, interior vertical board sheathing on both first and second floors and remnants of early beaded weatherboards. The late 19th-century farmhouse has experienced only a few alterations and is representative of hundreds of its type built throughout the county.

History and Support

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A tract of land called Tulls Addition with other adjacent lands lying in Somerset County about 7 miles from Princess Anne Town adjoining Steven Harris' land with 1 barn 20 by 30 and 1 corn house 16 by 20 and 1 stable 16 by 18 and 1 dwelling house where Betty Long lives 16 by 18 one storey of wood \$550.00

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... 1 dwelling 20 by 32 one story high with 4 windows ^{4 by 2} and 2 windows 3 by 2 with ends brick and sides and roof wood and 1 kitchen 32 by 16 and 1 meat house 10 by 10 and 1 milk house 8 by 10 all wood \$450.00

Isaac Harris' slave assessment included a total of 8, with 4 slaves between the ages of 12 and 50.

Isaac Harris' will was proved on 21 March 1816, and he left to his wife, Sally, and ^{CHILDREN} ~~her~~ interests in his estate. Sally lived another eleven years, and at her ^{AND ONE SON} ~~th~~ her married daughters, by trustee, her land to Samuel S. Costen on 5 September 1837. In 1845, Samuel and his wife, Mary, sold the 212 acres to William M. N. B. Costen,

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. S-214

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title

organization

date

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



S-214

Brittingham Farm
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Southwest Elevation
5/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-214

Brittingham Farm
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Northeast Elevation
5/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



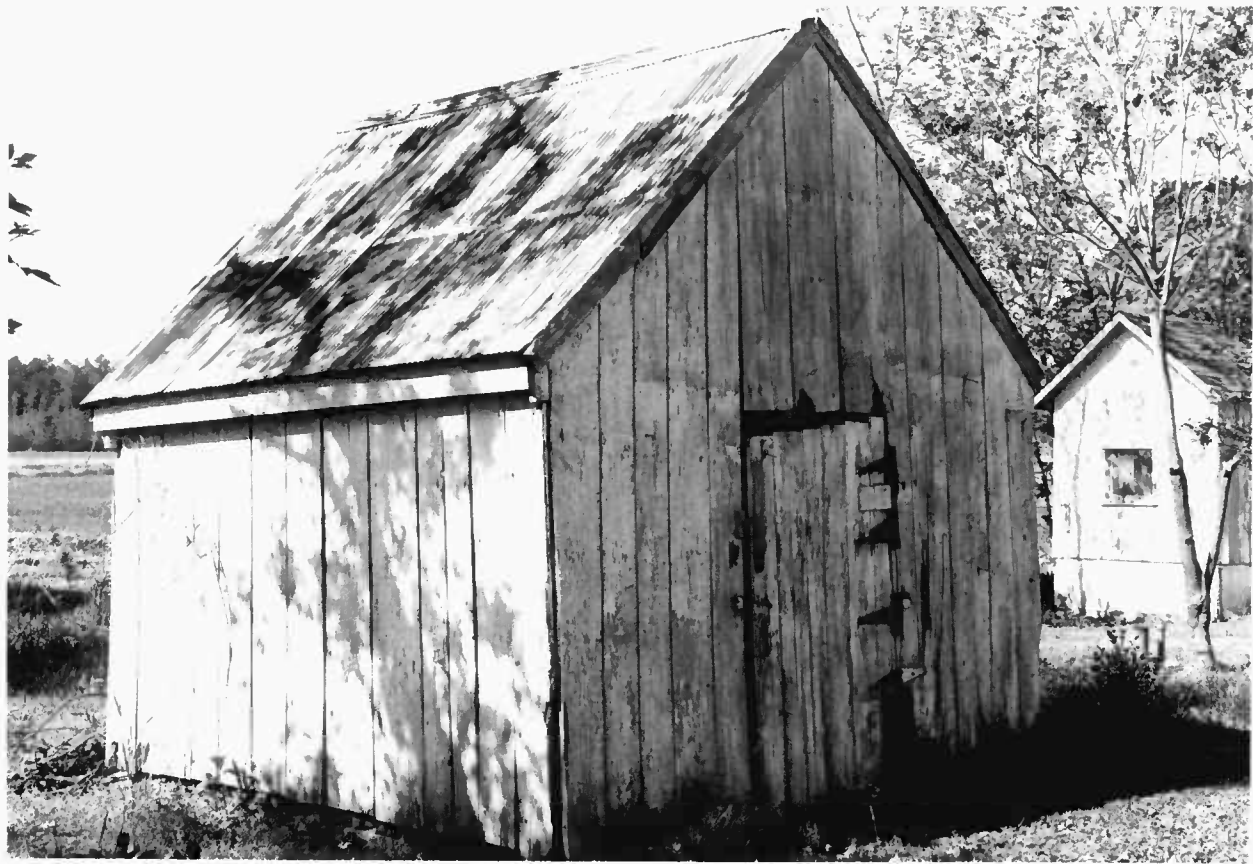
S-214

Brittingham Farm
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Southeast Elevation
5/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-214

Brittingham Farm
Near Cokesbury Somerset County
Northeast Elev.of Smoke House
6/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-214

Brittingham Farm

Near Cokesbury, Somerset County

Southwest Elevation - *Smoke House*

5/84 Paul Touart

Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-214

Brittingham Farm
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Northeast Elev.of Smoke House
5/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-214

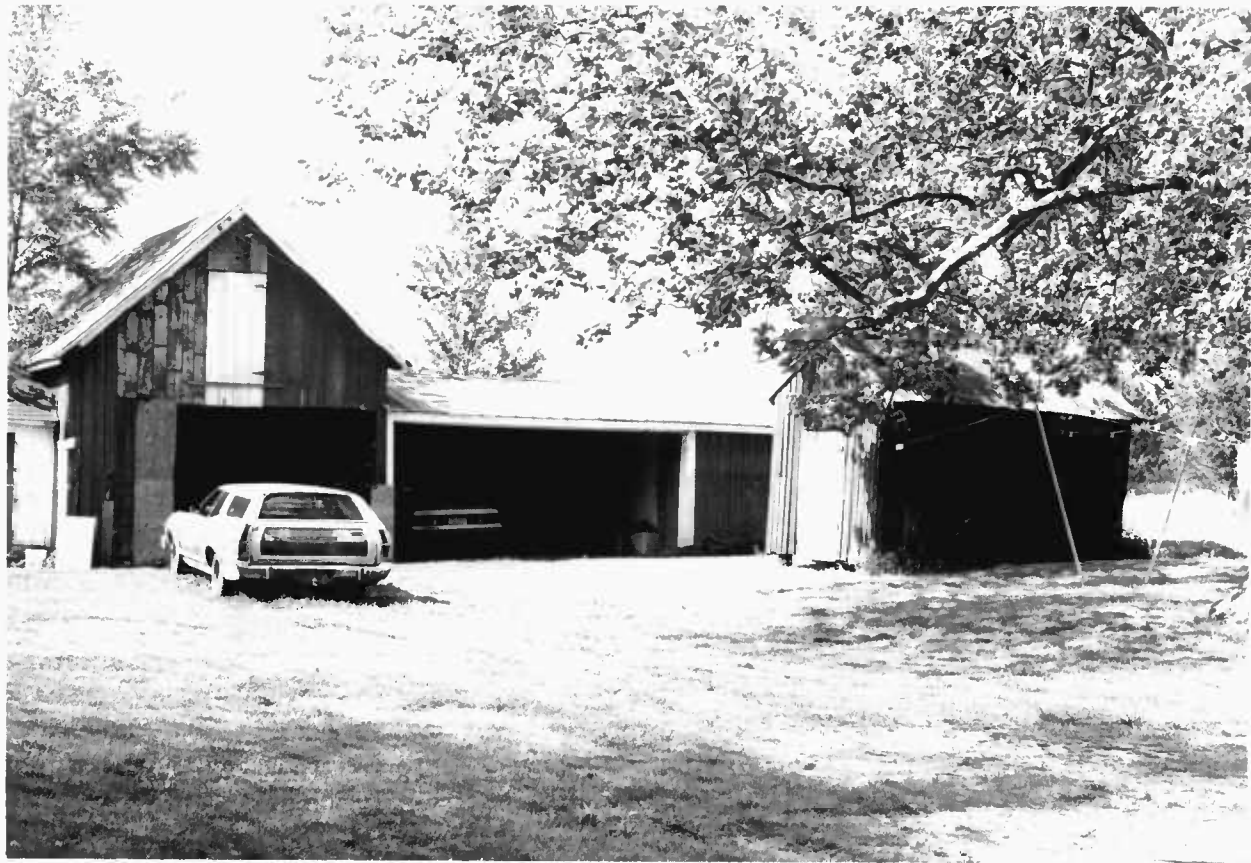
Brittingham Farm

Near Cokesbury, Somerset County

Wagon Shed and Corn Crib

5/84 Paul Touart

Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-214

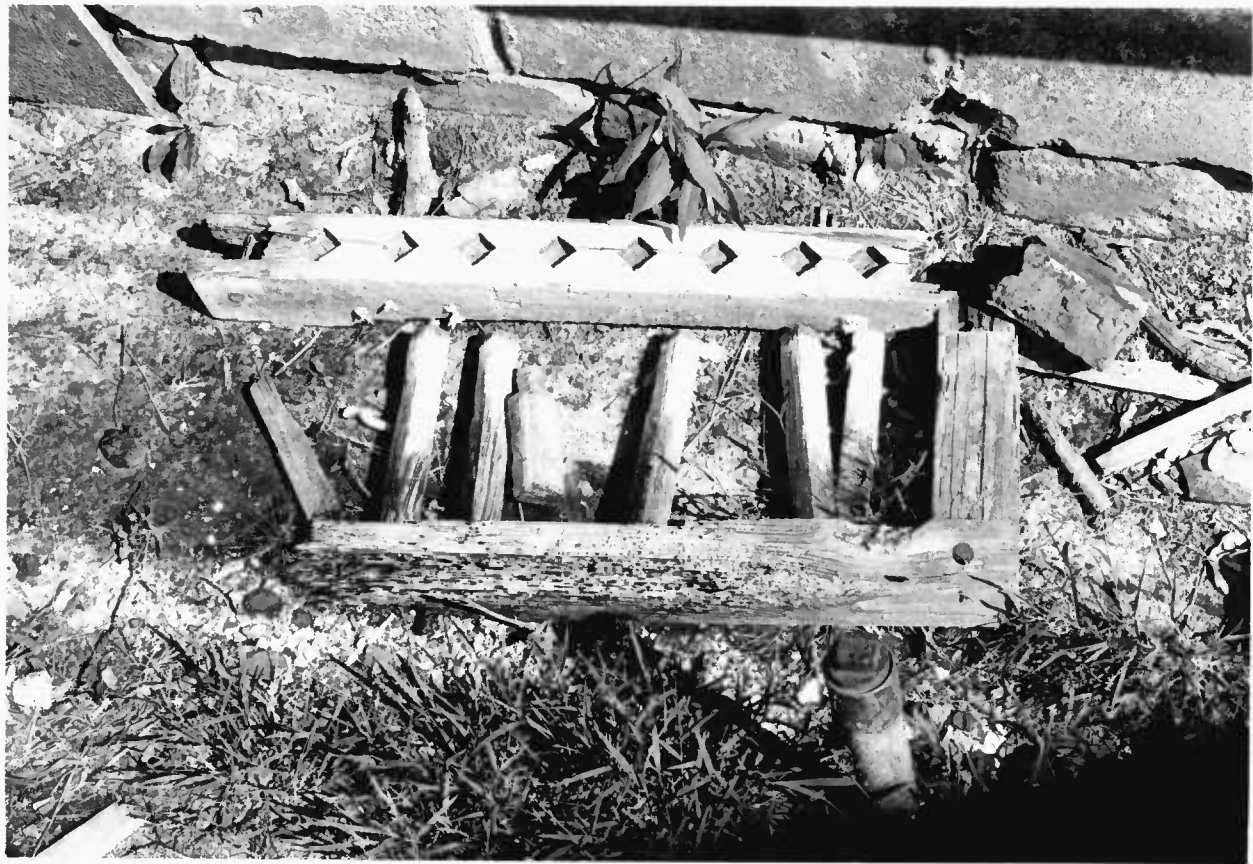
Brittingham Farm

Near Cokesbury, Somerset County

Corn Orib - Southwest Elevation

5/84 Paul Touart

Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-214

Brittingham Farm
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Foundation Wall Grill
5/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-214

Brittingham Farm
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
2nd floor partition
5/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S 214

Brittingham Farm
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
18th-century four-panel door
5/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Historic Trust



S-214

Brittingham Farm
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Northwest Elev. 9/9 sash window
5/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust



S-214

Brittingham Farm
Near Cokesbury, Somerset County
Corner Dovetailing
5/84 Paul Touart
Neg./ Maryland Historic Trust